Q. *What is the CIA Domestic Contact Service? Is it a service through which William E. Colby, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, supplies domestics for his men, or is it a domestic espionage service not allowed by law?—L.T., Washington, D.C.*

A. The CIA Domestic Contact Service is an information-gathering operation. American businessmen, returning to the U.S. from foreign trips, are asked to pass on useful information gleaned in their overseas visits or tours of duty. "There is no payment of money," Richard Helms, former CIA director, testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Feb. 7, 1973. "There is no effort to twist anyone's arm. We simply are giving them an opportunity as patriotic Americans to say what they know . . ." The CIA-businessmen relationships are kept top secret so as not to endanger the business executives or their companies.

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